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<b>CERTIFICATE OF MAILING BY "EXPRESS MAIL" (37 CFR 1.10)</b> Applicant(s): <b>SEP 08 2004</b>			Docket No. <b>14321.57</b>	
Application No. <b>10/648,822</b>	Filing Date <b>08/26/2003</b>	Examiner <b>Unassigned</b>	Customer No. <b>022913</b>	Group Art Unit <b>2874</b>
Invention: <b>OPTICAL CONNECTOR PLUG, OPTICAL CONNECTOR PLUG CONNECTING METHOD, OPTICAL FIBER CROSS-CONNECTION APPARATUS, OPTICAL FIBER CORD RETRACTING METHOD, OPTICAL FIBER CORD RETRACTION DEVICE, AND OPTICAL CONNECTOR PLUG ALIGNMENT BLOCK</b>				

I hereby certify that the following correspondence:

Transmittal of Information Disclosure Statement (2 pgs, in triplicate); Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement (2 pgs); Form PTO-1449 Listing all Cited References (2 pgs); Legible Copies of Six (6) Cited References; postcard; and Certificate of Express Mailing Label No. EV 367 550 572 US.

*(Identify type of correspondence)*

is being deposited with the United States Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service under 37 CFR 1.10 in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on

September 8, 2004

*(Date)*

Kelli Clark

*(Typed or Printed Name of Person Mailing Correspondence)*



*(Signature of Person Mailing Correspondence)*

EV 367 550 572 US

*("Express Mail" Mailing Label Number)*

**Note: Each paper must have its own certificate of mailing.**

<b>TRANSMITTAL OF INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT</b> (Under 37 CFR 1.97(b) or 1.97(e))				Docket No. <b>14321.57</b>	
In Re Application Of: <b>Masato Mizukami et al.</b>					
Application No.	Filing Date	Status	Customer No.	Group Art Unit	Confirmation No.
<b>10/648,822</b>	<b>08/26/2003</b>	<b>Unassigned</b>	<b>022913</b>	<b>2874</b>	<b>4584</b>
Title: <b>OPTICAL CONNECTOR PLUG, OPTICAL CONNECTOR PLUG CONNECTING METHOD, OPTICAL FIBER CROSS-CONNECTION APPARATUS, OPTICAL FIBER CORD RETRACTING METHOD, OPTICAL FIBER CORD RETRACTION DEVICE, AND OPTICAL CONNECTOR PLUG ALIGNMENT BLOCK</b>					
Address to: <b>Commissioner for Patents</b> <b>P.O. Box 1450</b> <b>Alexandria, VA 22313-1450</b>					
<b>37 CFR 1.97(b)</b>					
1. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The Information Disclosure Statement submitted herewith is being filed within three months of the filing of a national application other than a continued prosecution application under 37 CFR 1.53(d); within three months of the date of entry of the national stage as set forth in 37 CFR 1.491 in an international application; before the mailing of a first Office Action on the merits, or before the mailing of a first Office Action after the filing of a request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114.					
<b>37 CFR 1.97(c)</b>					
2. <input type="checkbox"/> The Information Disclosure Statement submitted herewith is being filed after the period specified in 37 CFR 1.97(b), provided that the Information Disclosure Statement is filed before the mailing date of a Final Action under 37 CFR 1.113, a Notice of Allowance under 37 CFR 1.311, or an Action that otherwise closes prosecution in the application, and is accompanied by one of:					
<div style="margin-left: 40px;"> <input type="checkbox"/> the statement specified in 37 CFR 1.97(e);         </div>					
<b>OR</b>					
<div style="margin-left: 40px;"> <input type="checkbox"/> the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(p).         </div>					

**TRANSMITTAL OF INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**  
(Under 37 CFR 1.97(b) or 1.97(c))

Docket No.  
14321.57

In Re Application: Masato Mizukami et al.

Application No.	Filing Date	Examiner	Customer No.	Group Art Unit	Confirmation No.
10/648,822	08/26/2003	Unassigned	022913	2874	4584

Title: OPTICAL CONNECTOR PLUG, OPTICAL CONNECTOR PLUG CONNECTING METHOD, OPTICAL FIBER CROSS-CONNECTION APPARATUS, OPTICAL FIBER CORD RETRACTING METHOD, OPTICAL FIBER CORD RETRACTION DEVICE, AND OPTICAL CONNECTOR PLUG ALIGNMENT BLOCK

**Payment of Fee**

(Only complete if Applicant elects to pay the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(p))

- ☐ A check in the amount of \_\_\_\_\_ is attached.
- ☒ The Director is hereby authorized to charge and credit Deposit Account No. 23-3178 as described below.
- ☐ Charge the amount of \_\_\_\_\_
- ☒ Credit any overpayment.
- ☒ Charge any additional fee required.
- ☐ Payment by credit card. Form PTO-2038 is attached.

**WARNING: Information on this form may become public. Credit card information should not be included on this form. Provide credit card information and authorization on PTO-2038.**

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I certify that this document and authorization to charge deposit account is being facsimile transmitted to the United States Patent and Trademark Office (Fax. No. \_\_\_\_\_)

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(Date)

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Signature

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Typed or Printed Name of Person Signing Certificate

**Certificate of Mailing by First Class Mail**

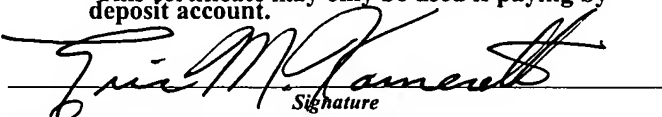
I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to "Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450."

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(Date)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Person Mailing Correspondence

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Typed or Printed Name of Person Mailing Certificate

\*This certificate may only be used if paying by deposit account.

  
Signature

ERIC M. KAMERATH

Registration No. 46,081

Customer No. 022913

Dated: September 8, 2004

CC:



Express Mail Label No. EV 367 550 572 US

PATENT APPLICATION

Docket No: 14321.57

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of )  
)  
Masato Mizukami et al. )  
)  
Serial No.: 10/648,822 ) Art Unit  
) 2874  
Filing Date: August 26, 2003 )  
)  
Confirmation No.: 4584 )  
)  
For: OPTICAL CONNECTOR PLUG, OPTICAL CONNECTOR )  
PLUG CONNECTING METHOD, OPTICAL FIBER )  
CROSS-CONNECTION APPARATUS, OPTICAL FIBER )  
CORD RETRACTING METHOD, OPTICAL FIBER CORD )  
RETRACTION DEVICE, AND OPTICAL CONNECTOR )  
PLUG ALIGNMENT BLOCK )

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT  
UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.97

Commissioner for Patents  
PO Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Sir:

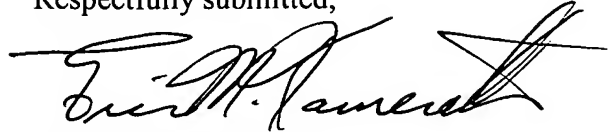
Please find, pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(a)(1), the enclosed Form PTO-1449 which contains a list of all patents, publications, or other items that have come to the attention of one or more of the individuals designated in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(c). While no representation is made that these references may be "prior art" within the meaning of that term under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 or 103, the enclosed listed references are disclosed so as to fully comply with the duty of disclosure set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56.

Moreover, while no representation is made that a specific search of office files or patent office records has been conducted or that no better art exists, the undersigned attorney of record believes that the enclosed art is the closest to the claimed invention (taken in its entirety) of which the undersigned is presently aware, and no art which is closer to the claimed invention (taken in its entirety) has been knowingly withheld.

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98, a copy of each of the listed references or relevant portion thereof is also enclosed.

Dated this 8<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2004.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Eric M. Kamerath", with a stylized flourish at the end.

ERIC M. KAMERATH  
Attorney for Applicant  
Registration No. 46,081  
Customer No. 02291

EMK:kc

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Applicant: Masato Mizukami et al.  
 Serial No.: 10/648,822  
 Filing Date: August 26, 2003  
 For:



Sheet 1 of 2  
 Confirmation No.: 4584  
 Att'y Docket No.: 14321.57  
 Group: 2874

OPTICAL CONNECTOR PLUG, OPTICAL CONNECTOR PLUG CONNECTING METHOD,  
 OPTICAL FIBER CROSS-CONNECTION APPARATUS, OPTICAL FIBER CORD  
 RETRACTING METHOD, OPTICAL FIBER CORD RETRACTION DEVICE, AND  
 OPTICAL CONNECTOR PLUG ALIGNMENT BLOCK

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATIONS MADE BY APPLICANT

U.S. Patent Documents

<u>Examiner Initial*</u>	<u>Document Number</u>	<u>Issue Date</u>	<u>Name</u>
_____ 1	5,666,449	09/09/1997	Sawae et al.

Foreign Patent Documents

<u>Examiner Initial*</u>	<u>Document Number</u>	<u>Publication Date</u>	<u>Country or Patent Office</u>	<u>Translation</u>
_____ 2	1072916 A1	31/01/2001	EPO	N/A

Other Documents

(including author, title, pertinent pages, etc.)

<u>Examiner Initial*</u>	
_____ 3	Abstract of Japanese Publication No. 02250019, published October 5, 1990.
_____ 4	Abstract of Japanese Publication No. 07318820, published December 8, 1995.
_____ 5	Abstract of Japanese Publication No. 06242349, published September 2, 1994.
_____ 6	O. SEZERMAN et al., "Accurate alignment preserves polarization," Laser Focus World, Pennwell Publishing, USA, December 1997, pp. S27-S30

Examiner:

Date Considered:

Applicant: Masato Mizukami et al.

Confirmation No.: 4584

Serial No.: 10/648,822

Att'y Docket No.: 14321.57

Filing Date: August 26, 2003

Group: 2874

For: OPTICAL CONNECTOR PLUG, OPTICAL CONNECTOR PLUG CONNECTING METHOD,  
OPTICAL FIBER CROSS-CONNECTION APPARATUS, OPTICAL FIBER CORD  
RETRACTING METHOD, OPTICAL FIBER CORD RETRACTION DEVICE, AND  
OPTICAL CONNECTOR PLUG ALIGNMENT BLOCK

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### References Cited by Applicants

While the filing of Information Disclosure Statements is voluntary, the procedure is governed by the guidelines of Section 609 of the Manual of Patent Examining Procedure and 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98. To be considered a proper Information Disclosure Statement, Form PTO-1449 shall be accompanied by a copy of each listed patent or publication or other item of information and a translation of the pertinent portions of foreign documents (if an existing translation is readily available to the applicant), an explanation of relevance of each reference not in the English language, and should be submitted in a timely manner as set out in MPEP Sec. 609.

Examiners will consider all citations submitted in conformance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.98 and MPEP Sec. 609 and place their initials adjacent the citations in the spaces provided on this form. Examiners will also initial citations not in conformance with the guidelines which may have been considered. A reference may be considered by the Examiner for any reason whether or not the citation is in full conformance with the guidelines. A line will be drawn through a citation if it is not in conformance with the guidelines AND has not been considered. A copy of the submitted form, as reviewed by the Examiner, will be returned to the applicant with the next communication. The original of the form will be entered into the application file.

Each citation initialed by the Examiner will be printed on the issued patent in the same manner as references cited by the Examiner on Form PTO-892.

The reference designations "A1," "A2," etc. (referring to Applicant's reference 1, Applicant's reference 2, etc.) will be used by the Examiner in the same manner as Examiner's reference designations "A," "B," "C," etc. on Office Action Form PTO-1142.

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Examiner:

Date Considered:

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\*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609, draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

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